

On decomposable rational maps.

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Abstract

If R is a rational map, the Main Result is a uniformization Theorem for the space of decompositions of the iterates of R . Secondly, we show that Fatou conjecture holds for decomposable rational maps.

1 Introduction

This paper gives a dynamical approach to the algebraic problem of decomposition of rational maps. That is to describe the set of decompositions of a rational map R , along with the decompositions of all its iterates R^n . We want to link geometric structures with the decomposition of rational maps. To this end, we construct a space which describes the space of decomposition of the cyclic semigroup generated by R .

We found that the fact that a map is decomposable impose dynamical consequences. In particular, we show using elementary arguments that the Fatou conjecture is true for decomposable rational maps.

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2 On stability of decomposable maps

Given a rational map R , the Julia set $J(R)$ is the smallest completely invariant closed set in the Riemann sphere $\bar{\mathbb{C}}$, with at least 3 points. The Fatou set $F(R)$ is the complement of the Julia set on $\bar{\mathbb{C}}$. By definition, the set $F(R)$ is open and completely invariant.

A map R is decomposable if there are maps R_1 and R_2 , of degree at least 2, such that $R = R_1 \circ R_2$. In this section, we study stability properties for decomposable rational maps. The simple fact that the maps

$$R = R_1 \circ R_2 \text{ and } \tilde{R} = R_2 \circ R_1$$

are semiconjugated, provides arguments to show that J -stability implies hyperbolicity for decomposable maps. The Fatou conjecture, as restated in [7], states that all J -stable maps are hyperbolic.

First, we recall the definitions of J -stability, more details can be found in [7] and [9]. Let (X, d_1) and (Y, d_2) be metric spaces, a map $\phi : X \rightarrow Y$ is called K -quasiconformal, in Pesin's sense if, for every $x_0 \in X$

$$\limsup_{r \rightarrow 0} \left\{ \frac{\sup\{|\phi(x_0) - \phi(x_1)| : |x_0 - x_1| < r\}}{\inf\{|\phi(x_0) - \phi(x_1)| : |x_0 - x_1| < r\}} \right\} \leq K.$$

Let us recall that two rational maps R_1 and R_2 are J -equivalent, if there is a homeomorphism $h : J(R_1) \rightarrow J(R_2)$, which is quasiconformal in Pesin's sense and conjugates R_1 to R_2 .

Given a family of maps $\{R_w\}$ depending holomorphically on a parameter $w \in W$, a map R_{w_0} in $\{R_w\}$ is called J -stable if, there is a neighborhood V of w_0 such that, R_w is J -equivalent to R_{w_0} for all $w \in V$, and the conjugating homeomorphisms depend holomorphically on w .

Theorem 1. *Let $R = R_1 \circ R_2$ and $\tilde{R} = R_2 \circ R_1$, such that $\deg(R_i) > 1$ for $i = 1, 2$. If both maps, R and \tilde{R} , are J -stable. Then R and \tilde{R} are hyperbolic.*

Let $Cr(R)$ denote the set of critical points of R . It is well known (see for instance [5]), that a J -stable map R is hyperbolic if and only if the set $Cr(R)$ belongs to $F(R)$.

Proof. Since R is J -stable, then R is in general position with respect to the Julia set, that is, R has no critical relations on $J(R)$. In particular, the local degree of each critical point of R is 2. To prove the claim, we will show that

there are no critical points in $J(R)$. First notice that as a consequence of the Chain Rule, we have the equation

$$Cr(R) = Cr(R_1 \circ R_2) = R_2^{-1}(Cr(R_1)) \cup Cr(R_2).$$

Let x be a point in $R_2^{-1}(Cr(R_1)) \cap J(R)$, since $J(R)$ is completely invariant under R , every point in $R_2^{-1}(R_2(x))$ belongs to $J(R)$ and is a critical point of R . Also, because there are no critical relations in $J(R)$, the set $R_2^{-1}(R_2(x))$ consists of only one point. However R_2 has degree at least 2, hence x is a critical point of R_2 , but $R_2(x)$ is a critical point of R_1 , which implies that the local degree of R in x is at least 4. This contradicts the fact that there are no critical relations in $J(R)$. Then $R_2^{-1}(Cr(R_1))$ belongs to the Fatou set $F(R)$.

There are two semiconjugacies between R and \tilde{R} as shown in the following diagram:

$$\begin{array}{ccc} \mathbb{C} & \xrightarrow{R} & \mathbb{C} \\ R_2 \downarrow & & \downarrow R_2 \\ \mathbb{C} & \xrightarrow{\tilde{R}} & \mathbb{C} \\ R_1 \downarrow & & \downarrow R_1 \\ \mathbb{C} & \xrightarrow{R} & \mathbb{C} \end{array}$$

The first semiconjugacy, in fact R_2 , sends $F(R)$ to $F(\tilde{R})$, hence $Cr(R_1) = R_2(R_2^{-1}(Cr(R_1)))$ belongs to $F(\tilde{R})$. By the same argument $Cr(R_2)$ is a subset of $F(R)$. Altogether $Cr(R)$ belongs to $F(R)$. Therefore the map R is hyperbolic and, by the symmetry of the argument, the map \tilde{R} is also hyperbolic.

□

The previous theorem has the following corollary which already was noted in [8].

Corollary 2. *The following statements are equivalent*

- *The map R is hyperbolic.*
- *There exist $n > 1$ such that R^n is J -stable in Rat_{d^n} .*
- *For every $n \geq 1$, the map R^n is J -stable in Rat_{d^n} .*

Intuitively, one could understand the facts above considering the dimension of the space of invariant line fields on the Julia set $J(R)$. This dimension is comparable with the number of critical values of R^n on $J(R)$, which grows linearly with respect to iteration. On the other hand, the condition of J -stability in $\text{Rat}_d(\mathbb{C})$ requires exponential growth of the dimensions with respect to iteration, but these dimensions should be comparable with the number of critical points of R^n on $J(R)$. The incompatibility of the rate of these growths is a contradiction to the existence of invariant line fields on $J(R)$.

Now let us consider for a given rational map R the Hurwitz space $H(R)$, that is, the set of all rational maps with the same combinatorics for the first iteration, equivalently

$$H(R) = \{Q \in \text{Rat}(\mathbb{C}) : \exists \phi \text{ and } \psi \in \text{Homeo}(\bar{\mathbb{C}}) \text{ such that } Q \circ \phi = \psi \circ R\}.$$

When R is a rational map in general position, with $\deg(R) = d$, the space $H(R)$ is open and dense in the space $\text{Rat}_d(\mathbb{C})$. Note that $H(R^n)$ consists of compositions of the form $R_1 \circ R_2 \circ \dots \circ R_n$ with $R_i \in H(R)$. It is not clear if $H(R^n)$ consists of all compositions of this form. However,

$$\dim(H(R^n)) \leq n \dim H(R).$$

Now we can ask the analog of Corollary 2 for Hurwitz spaces:

1. Assume that R^n is J -stable in $H(R^n)$, is it true that R^k is J -stable at $H(R^k)$ for $k \neq n$? We expect an affirmative answer for $k < n$.
2. Assume that R^n is J -stable in $H(R^n)$ for all n , is it true that R is hyperbolic?

The second question is actually a modified version of Fatou conjecture. These questions make sense for entire and meromorphic transcendental maps.

The conditions of Theorem 1 are too strong, it is enough that one of the maps, say $R = R_1 \circ R_2$ is J -stable.

Proposition 3. *Let $R = R_1 \circ R_2$ and $\tilde{R} = R_2 \circ R_1$, such that $\deg(R_i) > 1$ for $i = 1, 2$. If R is J -stable then \tilde{R} is J -stable.*

We will just sketch the proof of Proposition 3. Let us denote by $QC_J(R)$, the J -stability component of R . This is the path connected component of the J -equivalence class of R containing R . We need the following theorem which was proved in [9], see also [7].

Theorem 4 (McMullen-Sullivan). *On every analytic family H , the set of J -stable maps is open and dense. Moreover, the set of structurally stable maps is also dense in H .*

Let H be an analytic family, by Theorem 4 the set $U = QC_J(R) \cap H$ is an open set. Every holomorphically embedded disk D in U containing R , depending on a complex parameter t , is equivalent to a family of Beltrami coefficients μ_t , whose associated quasiconformal maps f_t conjugate R to R_t along D . The maps f_t form a holomorphic motion of $J(R)$, using Ślodkowski's Extended λ -Lemma, the maps f_t can be extended to a neighborhood of $J(R)$ for every t . Moreover, the extension can be taken to preserve the dynamics (see [13, Theorem 1.7]). Now consider the push-forward operator $(R_2)_*$ which sends the family μ_t to the family of Beltrami differentials $(R_2)_*\mu_t$ defined on a neighborhood W of \tilde{R} . The complementary components of W can be taken to be simply connected. With this choice, we can extend the maps $(R_2)_*\mu_t$ to the whole sphere by attaching, with surgery, Blaschke maps on each complementary component. Solving the Beltrami equation for the resulting Beltrami coefficients will induce a family rational maps, J -equivalent to \tilde{R} . Thus \tilde{R} is J -stable.

The heart of the proof lies on the fact that the semiconjugacy defines an bijective operator in the space of invariant line fields on the Julia set.

3 A semigroup associated to a rational map R .

In this section, for every rational map R we construct a suitable semigroup S_R , such that the space of analytic equivalences of S_R uniformizes the space of virtual decompositions of R . The semigroup S_R will be a semigroup of correspondences on the affine part \mathcal{A}_R of R , as defined by M. Lyubich and Y. Minsky in [6].

Let us recall first Lyubich and Minsky's construction, given a rational map R defined in the Riemann sphere $\tilde{\mathbb{C}}$, consider the inverse limit

$$\mathcal{N}_R = \{\hat{z} = (z_1, z_2, \dots) : R(z_{n+1}) = z_n\}.$$

The natural extension of R is the map $\hat{R} : \mathcal{N}_R \rightarrow \mathcal{N}_R$ given in coordinates by $\hat{R}(\hat{z})_n = R(z_n)$. There is a family of maps $\pi_n : \mathcal{N}_R \rightarrow \tilde{\mathbb{C}}$, the coordinate projections, defined by $\pi_n(\hat{z}) = z_n$, which semiconjugates the action of \hat{R}

with R , that is $\pi_n \circ \hat{R} = R \circ \pi_n$. By endowing \mathcal{N}_R with the topology of the restriction of Tychonoff topology, one can show that the map \hat{R} is a homeomorphism. The regular part \mathcal{R}_R is the maximal subset of \mathcal{N}_R which admits a Riemannian structure, of complex dimension one, compatible with the coordinate projections π_n . A leaf is a path connected component of the regular part. A theorem by Lyubich and Minsky (see [6, Lemma 3.3]) states that, besides leaves associated to Herman rings, all leaves are simply connected. The affine part \mathcal{A}_R consists of the regular points whose leaves are conformally isomorphic to complex plane \mathbb{C} . Let $\mathcal{C} = \{a_1, a_2, \dots, a_n\}$ be a repelling periodic cycle for R . An invariant lift of \mathcal{C} is the set of points \hat{a} in \mathcal{N}_R such that all the coordinates of \hat{a} belong to \mathcal{C} . Invariant lifts of periodic repelling points belong to the affine part. Moreover, the uniformizing function of the leaves containing these invariant leaves is a Poincaré function associated to \mathcal{C} . Since there are infinitely many of repelling periodic cycles, the affine part consist of an infinite number of leaves.

Let us remind that a holomorphic correspondence K is a subset of a product of complex spaces $B \times C$ such that, K is the union of countably many analytic varieties and, the projections are holomorphic and the projection of K to the first coordinate is surjective.

In a fiber F , of the form $\pi_n^{-1}(x)$ for $x \in \bar{\mathbb{C}}$, we can define the set of deck transformations, or dual monodromies, which are given by the correspondences $\pi_n^{-1} \circ \pi_n$. The fact that the conformal structure on leaves is compatible with the projections π_n , means that the leaf admits a conformal structure such that, in this structure, the maps are holomorphic. In particular, given two leaf saturated sets \mathcal{B} and \mathcal{C} in \mathcal{A}_R . If the cardinality of leaves in \mathcal{B} is at most countable, then $(\pi_n|_{\mathcal{B}})^{-1} \circ \pi_n|_{\mathcal{C}}$ is a holomorphic correspondence in $\mathcal{B} \times \mathcal{C}$, here $\pi_n|_D$ denotes the restriction of the map π_n to the set D . When $\mathcal{B} = \mathcal{C}$, then $(\pi_n|_{\mathcal{B}})^{-1} \circ \pi_n|_{\mathcal{B}}$ is a semigroup.

If L and L' are two leaves in \mathcal{A}_R , then the map \hat{R} sends $(\pi_n|_{L'})^{-1} \circ \pi_n|_L$ to $(\pi_n|_{R(L')})^{-1} \circ \pi_n|_{R(L)}$. In particular if \mathcal{B} is a \hat{R} -invariant, leaf saturated, set in \mathcal{A}_R , the action of \hat{R} commutes with the action of $(\pi_n|_{\mathcal{B}})^{-1} \circ \pi_n|_{\mathcal{B}}$ in \mathcal{A}_R .

A leaf L in \mathcal{A}_R is called periodic if there exist some n such that L is invariant under \hat{R}^n . Let $\mathcal{C}(R)$ the set of all periodic leaves in \mathcal{A}_R . The semigroup of deck correspondences is holomorphic correspondence $(\pi_n|_{\mathcal{C}(R)})^{-1} \circ \pi_n|_{\mathcal{C}(R)}$ and will be denoted by $\pi_n^{-1} \circ \pi_n$.

Now, let us define the semigroup S_R as the semigroup $\langle \mathcal{C}(R), \hat{R}, \pi_n^{-1} \circ \pi_n \rangle$, generated by the constants maps on the set $\mathcal{C}(R)$, the dynamics of \hat{R} and

$\pi_n^{-1} \circ \pi_n$. We refer to $\mathcal{C}(R)$ as the set of constants of S_R and the dynamical part of S_R will be the semigroup generated by \hat{R} and $\{\pi_n^{-1} \circ \pi_n\}$.

Definition. A marked monomorphism $\rho : S_R \rightarrow S_{R_1}$ is a monomorphism that sends constants to constants, maps analytically leaves to leaves, and sends the dynamical part of S_R to the dynamical part of S_{R_1} . That is, the map ρ sends the semigroup generated by \hat{R} to the semigroup generated by \hat{R}_1 and, the action of deck transformations to the action of deck transformations.

By definition, a marked monomorphism also sends fibers, of the family of projections π_n , to fibers. An analytical isomorphism is a marked monomorphism ρ whose inverse is also a marked monomorphism.

Theorem 5. If S_1 and S_2 are semigroups associated to R_1 and R_2 , and let $\psi : S_1 \rightarrow S_2$ be a marked monomorphism of semigroups, then up to Möbius conjugacy of the maps R_1 and R_2 , there exist $\Psi : \mathbb{C} \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$ such that the following diagram commutes

$$\begin{array}{ccc} S_1 & \xrightarrow{\psi} & S_2 \\ \pi \downarrow & & \downarrow \pi \\ C & \xrightarrow{\Psi} & C \end{array}$$

Where C and C' denote either the sphere $\bar{\mathbb{C}}$, the plane \mathbb{C} , or the puncture plane \mathbb{C}^* whenever the exceptional sets of R_1 , R_2 have 0, 1 or 2 points respectively. Moreover, the map Ψ is Möbius, if and only if ψ is an analytic isomorphism.

Proof. Since ψ conjugates the action of the deck transformations $\pi_n^{-1} \circ \pi_n$, it sends fibers of π on fibers of π , hence induces a map Ψ defined on the image of the projections π_n . The Riemannian structure on \mathcal{A}_R is consistent with the projections π_n , because ψ preserves the leaf structure on $\mathcal{C}(R)$ the map Ψ is also analytic. If ψ is an isomorphism, the map ψ has an inverse which descends to an analytic inverse of Ψ , hence the map Ψ is Möbius. \square

Let us remind, see for example [11], two decompositions $R_1 \circ R_2 \circ \dots \circ R_m$ and $P_1 \circ P_2 \circ \dots \circ P_m$, are called equivalent if there are Möbius transformations γ_i , for $i = 1, \dots, m-1$, such that

$$P_1 = R_1 \circ \gamma_1, P_i = \gamma_{i-1}^{-1} \circ R_i \circ \gamma_i, \text{ for } 1 < i < m, \text{ and } P_m = \gamma_{m-1}^{-1} \circ R_m.$$

Definition. A rational map R , is called prime, indecomposable, if whenever we have $R = P \circ Q$, where P and Q are rational maps, then either P or Q belong to $PSL(2, \mathbb{C})$. A decomposition of $R = R_1 \circ R_2 \circ \dots \circ R_n$ is called a prime decomposition if, and only if, each R_i is prime of degree at least 2 for all i .

The rational map R is called virtually decomposable if there exist a number $n > 0$ and prime rational maps R_1, \dots, R_m such that $R_1 \circ R_2 \circ \dots \circ R_m$ is a decomposition of R^n non equivalent to R^n .

Every decomposable rational map is virtually decomposable. As a consequence of Ritt's theorems for polynomials, every virtually decomposable polynomial is decomposable. Surprisingly for rational maps this statement is false, M. Zieve constructed the following counterexample:

Example. Let $R(z) = \frac{(z-1)^2}{(z+1)^2}$, then one can check that

$$R^2(z) = \frac{4z}{(z+1)^2} \circ z^2.$$

Which is non equivalent to $R \circ R$. It is remarkable that this example appears already on rational maps of degree 2.

Let R be a virtually decomposable rational map, such that R^n has other decompositions. Hence R^{kn} has also other decompositions for every k . Is it true that eventually there are no new decompositions? In other words, whether the list of decompositions for the iterates R^m is finitely generated, let $g(R)$ be the number of generators of this list.

Let $\alpha(R)$ the supremum of the numbers m for which new decompositions of R^m appear. In general, the number $\alpha(R)$ can be infinite. Clearly the finiteness of $g(R)$ implies the finiteness of $\alpha(R)$. It is a problem to determine the reciprocal also holds, this is equivalent to the non existence of infinitely many decompositions for a given rational map.

In [10], P. Müller and M. Zieve proved that if P is a polynomial of degree $d \geq 2$, and not associated to parabolic orbifolds (definition below), then $\alpha(P)$ is bounded by $\log_2 d$. Moreover, this bound is sharp, and for some exceptions both $\alpha(R)$ and $g(R)$ can be infinite.

Michael Zieve suggested the conjecture that with exception of rational maps associated to parabolic orbifolds, the number $\alpha(R)$ is bounded in terms of the degree. We believe that, with the same exceptions, the number $G(R)$

is bounded and is comparable with $\alpha(R) \dim(H(R)/Aff(\mathbb{C}))$, where $Aff(\mathbb{C})$ acts on $H(R)$ by conjugation.

Let us remind that a parabolic orbifold is a Thurston orbifold \mathcal{O} with non negative Euler characteristic. When the map R is postcritically finite, the only maps associated to parabolic orbifolds are maps that are Möbius conjugated to maps of the form

$$z \mapsto z^n, \text{ Chebychev polynomials and Lattès maps.} \quad (1)$$

In the paper [12], J. Ritt gave the description of all the solutions of the equation of the form

$$R_1 \circ R_2 = R_2 \circ R_1.$$

In [3], A. Eremenko reformulated Ritt's theorem in dynamical terms.

Theorem 6 (Eremenko). *Let R_1 and R_2 be a pair of commuting rational maps. Then either there exist a pair of numbers, n and m , such that $R_1^n = R_2^m$ or, there is a parabolic orbifold \mathcal{O} such that maps R_1 and R_2 are covering maps from \mathcal{O} to \mathcal{O} .*

Maps R associated to parabolic orbifolds have affine laminations \mathcal{A}_R with special geometry as it is shown in the following theorem due to Lyubich and Kaimanovich (see [4]).

Theorem 7 (Kaimanovich-Lyubich). *The affine lamination \mathcal{A}_R admits a continuously varying Euclidean structure on leaves if and only if the map admits a parabolic orbifold.*

As a consequence of Theorem 7 we have the following proposition.

Proposition 8. *If a map R admits a parabolic orbifold then the semigroup generated by the restrictions of deck $\langle \pi_n^{-1} \circ \pi_n \rangle$ to leaves is a group of mappings.*

Proof. By Theorem 7, the leaves admit an Euclidean structure compatible with projections, this implies that, under a suitable uniformization for all leaves in $\mathcal{C}(R)$, the deck transformations act on leaves as a group of translations. \square

Let us define now the space of analytic equivalences $A(S_R)$.

Definition. *The space of analytic deformations of S_R is the space of triples $(S_{R_1}, \rho_1, \rho_2)$, where $R \neq R_1$ and $\rho_1 : S_R \rightarrow S_{R_1}$ and $\rho_2 : S_{R_1} \rightarrow S_R$ are marked monomorphisms.*

We say that $(S_{R_2}, \rho_1, \rho_2)$ and $(S_{R_3}, \phi_1, \phi_2)$ are analytically equivalent if and only if there is an isomorphism γ from S_{R_2} and S_{R_3} . Let $A(S_R)$ denote the space of analytic equivalences of S_R .

If (S_{R_1}, h, g) belongs to $A(S_R)$ then $h \circ g$ and $g \circ h$ commutes with \hat{R} and \hat{R}_1 respectively. Next theorem shows the correspondence of the space $A(S_R)$ with the number of virtual decomposition of the iterates of R .

Theorem 9. *The map R is virtually decomposable if and only if*

$$\text{card}(A(S_{R^n})) > 1.$$

Moreover, the number of virtual decompositions of R is in one-to-one correspondence with the points of $A(S_R)$.

Proof. Assume that R is virtually decomposable, then there exist n such that R^n has a decomposition $Q_1 \circ Q_2$ such that Q_i is not equivalent to R^j for some $j \leq n$. Then the semigroup associated to $Q_2 \circ Q_1$ is analytically equivalent to S_R but not Möbius equivalent, therefore $\text{card}(A(S_{R^n})) > 1$. Now let us assume that there exist a number $n > 0$, such that there is more than one analytic equivalence for S_{R^n} . Then there are analytic equivalences q_1 and q_2 between S_{R^n} and a semigroup S_Q , associated to a rational map Q . By Theorem 5, the map $q_1 \circ q_2$ descends to an analytic map $Q_1 \circ Q_2$, defined on the Riemann sphere with at most 2 punctures, hence $Q_1 \circ Q_2$ is a rational map, such that $Q_1 \circ Q_2$ commutes with R . By the same reasoning $Q_2 \circ Q_1$ commutes with Q . Let us assume that R and $Q_1 \circ Q_2$ are associated to a parabolic orbifold \mathcal{O} , then the semiconjugacies

$$Q_1 \circ R = Q \circ Q_1$$

$$Q_2 \circ Q = R \circ Q_2,$$

imply that Q is also associated to the same parabolic orbifold \mathcal{O} . Hence $S_Q = S_R$ which contradicts the definition of analytic deformation of S_R .

Then by Theorem 6 the maps R and $Q_1 \circ Q_2$ have a common iterate. That is, there are numbers n_1 and n_2 such that $R^{n_1} = (Q_1 \circ Q_2)^{n_2}$, by construction the map $Q_1 \circ Q_2$ is not Möbius equivalent to R^i , hence the map R is virtually decomposable.

□

3.1 Decomposition graphs.

Let \mathcal{D} be the semigroup of decomposable rational maps. We construct a directed graph \mathcal{G} associated to \mathcal{D} , where the vertices are the elements of \mathcal{D} and there is a directed edge, from R to \tilde{R} , if there are two rational maps R_1 and R_2 such that $R = R_1 \circ R_2$ and $\tilde{R} = R_2 \circ R_1$. Given a map $R \in \mathcal{D}$, let $G(R)$ be the connected component of \mathcal{G} containing R . We call $G(R)$, the *graph based at R* .

Example. Consider a map that has a decomposition $R = R_1 \circ R_2 \circ R_3$. Then the graph based on R contains, at least, a triangle, with vertices R , $R_2 \circ R_3 \circ R_1$ and $R_3 \circ R_1 \circ R_2$. Other decorations may appear from other decompositions of the map R as it is shown next.

Let us remind the first Ritt theorem for decomposition of polynomials.

Theorem 10 (First Ritt's Theorem). *Let $P_1 \circ \dots \circ P_m$ and $Q_1 \circ \dots \circ Q_n$ be two primes decompositions of a polynomial P , then $n = m$.*

In [1], an erratum of the paper [2], W. Bergweiler wrote the following counterexample, which is due to M. Zieve, to the First Ritt's theorem for rational maps.

$$R(z) := z^3 \circ \frac{z^2 - 4}{z - 1} \circ \frac{z^2 + 2}{z + 1} = \frac{z(z - 8)^3}{(z + 1)^3} \circ z^3.$$

One can check that each factor is prime. The graph $G(R)$ contains the triangle above together with a segment, based on R , connecting R with $\frac{z(z-8)^3}{(z+1)^3} \circ z^3$.

The graphs $G(R)$ give a topological realization of the decomposition structure of R . That is, two maps R_1 and R_2 have the same decomposable set if, and only if, the graphs $G(R_1)$ and $G(R_2)$ are isomorphic. However the graphs $G(R)$, as defined so far, are very big. For every $\gamma \in PSL(2, \mathbb{C})$, we have $R = (R_1 \circ \gamma^{-1}) \circ (\gamma \circ R_2)$. Hence in the graph based on R , the point R is connected to the maps $\gamma \circ \tilde{R} \circ \gamma^{-1}$. To refine the information in $G(R)$ we consider a quotient of \mathcal{D} by the conjugacy action of $PSL(2, \mathbb{C})$. Under this quotient the graphs $G(R)$ become finite, and makes sense to consider their fundamental groups $\pi_1(G(R), R)$. This groups provide invariants for the decomposition structure of rational maps

It is possible to simplify even more the information in $G(R)$ by considering a CW completion of the graph. Namely, complete every triangle induced by $R_1 \circ R_2 \circ R_3$ by a 3-simplex, to every tetrahedron induced by $R_1 \circ R_2 \circ R_3 \circ R_4$ by a 4-simplex and, so on. In this setting, the cohomology groups of this CW-complex give other set of invariants.

We finally note that given a map R , there is a correspondence between the vertices in $G(R)$ and the elements in $A(R)$, and such that the edges in $G(R)$ correspond to marked monomorphisms.

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